

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-10 L-02

NSAE-00 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7162

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 00354

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ESTC, ENRG, GW, GE, UR

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR POWER PLANT FOR THE USSR

1. (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED). THERE HAS BEEN A FLURRY OF MEDIA REPORTS THIS WEEK ON THE PROPOSED GERMAN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT SALE TO THE SOVIET UNION. ARTICLES HAVE APPEARED IN THE QUALITY GERMAN PRESS AND THE FINANCIAL TIMES AND THERE HAVE BEEN AT LEAST TWO SEPARATE TELEVISION NEWS REPORTS ON THE SUBJECT. THE MAIN THRUST OF THESE REPORTS IS THAT THE US AND THE UK HAVE RAISED OBJECTIONS IN THE COCOM FRAMEWORK TO THE DELIVERY OF THIS PLANT. AMONG THE OBJECTIONS MENTIONED IN THE REPORTS ARE THE NEED TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NPT AND THE CONCERN THAT THE USSR MIGHT GAIN BOTH MILITARY
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ADVANTAGES AS WELL AS VALUABLE KNOW-HOW THROUGH

COOPERATION IN THE NUCLEAR POWER SECTOR.

2. AT THE JANUARY 8 PRESS CONFERENCE, GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN BOELLING SAID HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THE REPORTS OF ALLIED OPPOSITION TO THE NUCLEAR POWER DEAL. TODAY'S PRESS CARRIED SEVERAL STORIES CITING BOELLING AS HAVING REFUTED THESE REPORTS AND ONE PAPER REPORTED BOELLING'S VIEW THAT THE PROJECT WOULD NOT MISCARRY DUE TO ALLIED OBJECTIONS. (END UNCLASSIFIED).

3. (BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL). IN A CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, AN ECONOMICS MINISTRY CONTACT DENIED THAT THE FRG HAD ANY ROLE IN INSTIGATING THESE REPORTS. HE SPECULATED THAT OPPONENTS OF CLOSER GERMAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION HAD STIMULATED THESE PRESS ARTICLES IN ORDER TO BUILD UP OPPOSITION TO THE PROJECT. OUR SOURCE STATED THAT THE FRG REMAINED OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROJECT'S PROSPECTS ALTHOUGH IT RECOGNIZED THAT CONSIDERABLE PATIENCE WOULD BE NEEDED BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE COMPLETED. HE ADDED THAT THE NEXT STAGE IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIETS AND THE GDR WOULD BE AT THE FORTHCOMING VISIT TO MOSCOW BY THE EAST GERMAN MINISTER FOR PLANNING. CASH

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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